

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07279 261536Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 TRSE-00 /074 W

----- 020322

R 261501Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5990

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 7279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PRESS CONTINUES FOCUS ON WEST BANK

1. LOCAL PRESS, APPARENTLY WITH GOJ NON-OPPOSITION, HAS AT REGULAR INTERVALS FEATURED ARTICLES STRESSING OPPOSITION OF WEST BANK INHABITANTS TO PROPOSED ISRAELI-SPONSORED ELECTIONS AND OTHER ALLEGED INFRACTIONS BY "OCCUPYING POWER." LATEST INSTALLMENT OCTOBER 24 CONCENTRATES ON VISIT TO AMMAN OF THREE WEST BANK NOTABLES "FOR TALKS WITH JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES ON WEST BANK DEVELOPMENTS."--HIKMAT AL-MASRI (FORMER MINISTER AND SPEAKER OF HOUSE), HAJ MA'ZUZ AL-MASRI (PRESENT MAYOR OF NABLUS), AND 'ABD AR-RZOUF AL-FARIS (FORMER REPRESENTATIVE). THEY IN FACT CAME TO AMMAN PRIMARILY TO ATTEND THE WEEKEND WEDDING OF A PROMINENT PALESTINIAN FAMILY RESIDENT IN AMMAN.

2. HAJ MA'ZUZ WAS THE PRIMARY SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP, DELIVERING SPECIAL PRESS STATEMENT THAT CONDEMNED "ISRAEL PLOT TO SET UP CIVIL ADMINISTRATION ON WEST BANK, A PLOT WHICH ALL PALESTINIANS WILL FIRMLY OPPOSE." ACCORDING TO PRESS, HE ALSO CONFERRED WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI ABOUT NABLUS' NEED FOR A 30,000 DINAR (\$153,000)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 07279 261536Z

LOAN YO FINANCE MUNICIPAL PROJECTS. HAJ MA'ZUZ FURTHER

DESCRIBED ECONOMIC SITUATION ON WEST BANK AS "VERY GRAVE, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING LATEST DEVALUATION AND DOUBLING OF TAXES. THE CLAIM THAT THE WEST BANKERS ARE LIVING IN AFFLUENCE DUE TO THE ISRAELI ECONOMY IS A GROSS ERROR; MANY WEST BANKERS DEPEND ON REMITTANCES FROM RELATIVES WORKING IN THE GULF." HAJ MA'ZUZ STATED THAT HE WILL REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN ISRAELI CIVIL ADMINISTRATION PLAN.

3. IN RELATED ITEM, PRESS REPORTED 24 OCTOBER THAT ISRAELIS HAVE ADOPTED EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS "IN PREPARATION FOR EXPECTED DEMONSTRATIONS OPPOSING CIVIL ADMINISTRATION SCHEME. ISRAELI

ARMY UNITS YESTERDAY (OCT 23) BEGAN TO SURROUND MOSQUES IN THE MAIN CITIES."

4. COMMENT: PERIODIC ATTENTION TO WEST BANK PROBLEMS BY JORDANIAN MEDIA HAS BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY OCCASSIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FOR WEST BANKERS' PLIGHT BY GOJ OFFICIALS, SUCH AS PRIME MINISTER RIFAI'S DECISION TO MEET WITH VISITING WEST BANK NOTABLES ON PROBLEMS AND PUBLICIZE MEETING, AND RECENT PRESS STATEMENT BY LEADER OF GOJ IN UN DELEGATION HIGHLIGHTING HIS DEFENSE OF WEST BANKERS' INTERESTS AT RECENT UN OPENING SESSION. THUS, GOJ PROJECTING IMAGE OF CONTINUING CONCERN AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN WHAT SOME ARABS MIGHT CONSIDER PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, BUT AS REACTION TO WEST BANKERS' INITIATIVES IN SEEKING JORDANIAN ASSIST-

ANCE. WHAT IS INTERESTING, HOWEVER, IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL JORDANIAN STATEMENT ON THE ELECTIONS LIKE THE ONE IN THE RECENT PAST ON THE IBRAHIMI MOSQUE QUESTION IN HEBRON--A POLITICALLY, AT LEAST, SOMEWHAT LESS INTERESTING ISSUE FOR JORDAN.

5. IT MAY BE TOO EARLY TO INDICATE WHETHER THERE IS SOME RELUCTANT ACQUIESCENCE ON PART OF JORDANIANS OR NOT. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT GOJ, IF ELECTIONS ARE INEVITABLE, WOULD LIKE TO INSURE ITS OWN CANDIDATES STAY IN THE GAME. GOJ PRIVATE, BUT BERY OFFICAL ATTITUDE ON MOST ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER INCLUDING RELATIONS WITH ISRAELIS, HAS BEEN THE LINE "WE CANNOT PRESCRIBE HOW PEOPLE LIVING UNDER MILITARY OCCUPATION SHOULD ACT. WE THEREFORE CANNOT PUT OURSELVES IN POSITION OF BING JUDGES IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 07279 261536Z

FUTURE ABOUT THE ACTS OF PERSONS UNDER THE OCCUPATION." THIS IS A WELL UNDERSTOOD SIGNAL OF APPROVAL AND CONTRASTS WITH

TRIALS AND HEAVY SENTENCES FOR HOSE SELLING ARAB LANDS TO ISRAELIS. WE THINK THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY SOFT JORDANIAN SIGNAL HAS BEEN GIVEN ON THESE ELECTIONS AND THAT GAZA MAYOR SHAMUA HAS BEEN AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD IT. END COMMENT.
PICKERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, PRESS COMMENTS, LOCAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN07279
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750372-0877
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751017/aaaaaplu.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN PRESS CONTINUES FOCUS ON WEST BANK
TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006